

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

SW516 - SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES

Course Outline

Fall 2006

Instructor: Sita Diehl

Office telephone: (615) 269-8739 (H) (615) 361-6608 (W)

E-Mail Address: sitadiehl@bellsouth.net

Office hours: By appointment

Course Outline:

- I Nature of Social Policy and Defining Social Welfare Policy
- II The Role of Policy Practice in Social Work
- III Historical Development of Social Welfare Policy and Services and the Relationship to the Social Work Profession
- IV Ethics in the Policy Process
- V The Role of Policy Analysis in Understanding the Policy Process
- VII Current Policy Issues and Strategies for Influencing Policy
- VIII Affecting Change in Social Welfare Policy

Course Requirements:

- I. Attendance is required.** Two classes may be missed without any consequence. **For each class missed after three, five (5) points will be deducted from your final grade.** Please notify the instructor of tardiness/absences, although notification does not indicate excused absence /tardy.

- II.** A basic text has been selected and readings are listed in the bibliography. In addition to assigned articles, students are encouraged to read from the recommended selections and independently from the professional journals. The course will also include lectures, class discussions, and small group class exercises. Students will be expected to: 1) complete assigned readings for preparation for each class session; (2) participate in class discussion/activities; and (3) complete all assignments. Graded assignments will include a political advocacy assignment, mid-term examination, a group policy analysis proposal and paper and a policy debate. The final paper should be double-spaced and sources should be documented and referenced using APA format. **No more than 50% of your sources should be obtained from the Internet.**

- III.** The group policy analysis paper and debate involves an in-depth analysis of a particular social problem and policy used to alleviate the problem. The social problem will be mutually negotiated between the instructor and the students.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

In-class activities	5%	
Political advocacy assignment	10%	
Mid-term exam	30%	
Group policy proposal		10%
Final group policy analysis paper	30%	
Policy debate	15%	
Total	100%	

Grading Scale:

A	95 – 100	Outstanding/superior
B+	90 - 94	Above Average
B	85 -89	Average
C+	80 -84	Below average
C	70 - 79	Poor
F	<70	Very Poor

Criteria for the assignments:

Policy Advocacy Project (10 % of grade)

Part 1: Provide a table of the following elected officials for your district. Indicate whether the official is currently running for office (y/n) and whether opposed or unopposed (O/U).

Include your name, address and ZIP code at the head of the page.

Office	Name	Address, City ZIP	Phone	Email	Running for office?
City Council Person					
State Representative					
State Senator					
US Representative					
US Senator					
US Senator					

Part 2: Write a 3 –5 page paper on a social welfare policy that interests you. Contact one of your elected officials, ask for his/her views on the issue and what s/he plans to do about it in the coming term. Determine the official’s voting record on this or similar issues. Write a 2 page letter to the official describing the issue as you see it and asking at least one question to elicit a response. The letter must be typed with no spelling or grammatical errors. Submit a copy of the paper, the table and the letter to the instructor. The assignment will be graded on accuracy and completeness. **Due date: September 25, 2006**

Policy Analysis Proposal (10 % of grade)

Identify a public policy for a specific social issue. Describe the chosen issue and policy. How does this policy affect vulnerable populations? Discuss whether you believe the policy needs to change and why or why not. Include objective factors such as impact on client populations, cost/benefit analysis, etc. Choose the policy analysis framework that will be used to analyze the policy. Describe the focus of the analysis in relation to this framework.

The proposal should be 5 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, with no spelling or grammatical errors. **Due date: October 9, 2006**

Policy Analysis Paper (30% of grade)

Using the chosen policy and framework identified in the proposal, describe the issue and analyze the policy. Propose changes to the policy based on what was learned from the analysis process. The following points must be included in the paper:

- A description and discussion of the issue and the policy. How does this policy affect vulnerable populations? Attach a copy of the policy to your paper.
- A description and discussion of your chosen policy analysis framework. Provide a rationale for why you chose this particular model.
- Using your chosen model, provide a step-by-step analysis of your policy.
- Based on your analysis, provide specific recommendations for policy changes. These recommendations are to be based on the objective information you obtained in the analysis process.
- If relevant, include an international perspective.

The paper will be graded on how well the policy is critically analyzed. Are statistics, case examples, research, and objective information used to support the analysis process? Are both opponent and proponent positions discussed in the analysis? The papers should be at least 15 pages in length, typed, and doubled spaced. **Use APA style for referencing.**

Due date: Nov. 27, 2006

Policy Debate (15 % of grade)

With your policy analysis group, delineate two sides of the public debate about the issue you are studying. Divide into teams, each team taking one side of the policy issue. Assignment:

In the past year, Americans have registered concerns and drawn philosophical lines on a variety of social issues ranging from immigration to disaster response to public education. You have been identified as a social worker with expertise in a particular issue and have been asked to take part in a special study committee charged with the task of making legislative recommendations regarding viable approaches and solutions to the problem. Further instructions will be supplied. **Due dates: Nov. 27th or Dec. 4**

Required Course Text:

DiNitto, D. (2005). *Social welfare: Politics and public policy*, 7th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Optional:

Karger, H. & Stoesz, D. (2002). *American Social Welfare Policy: A pluralist approach*. New York: Allyn and Bacon.

<p>August 28 Class 1</p>	<p>Social Policy: An Introduction Part I. Course overview, review syllabus, assignments, texts, readings, and academic integrity.</p> <p>Part II. What is social welfare policy and why is it important to social work education? Defining social welfare. Understanding social welfare from an ecological system perspective. Distinguishing social welfare systems from social welfare policy and social welfare programs.</p> <p>In class exercise: social policy practice</p>
<p>Sept. 4</p>	<p><i>Labor Day, No Class</i></p>
<p>Sept. 11 Class 2</p>	<p>Politics, Rationalism and Social Welfare.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Affecting change through politics, the social worker’s role.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNittno, Diana. Chapter 1: The American Public and Social Welfare, pp.18-32. • Required: Karger & Stoez, Chapter 8: The Making of Government and Social Policy, pp. 206-232. • Karger & Stoesz, Chapter 1: Social Policy and the American Welfare State, pp. 1 - 24. • Legislative Process: http://www.senate.gov/legislative/common/briefing/Enactment_law.htm • Tennessee General Assembly Handouts http://www.legislature.state.tn.us • Special Interest Influences: http://www.mindspring.com/~leslie.armijo/new/04%20post%20ISA%20revise.pdf
<p>Sept. 18 Class 3</p>	<p>Government and Social Welfare: History of social welfare policy, Organization and structure of the American social welfare system.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 2: Government and Social Welfare, pp. 36 – 74 • Required: Karger & Stoesz (1998) 3rd Edition, <i>American Social Welfare Policy</i>, Chapter 3: The Origins and Future of Social Welfare, pp.50 – 75. • Required: The Social Work History Station: http://www.boisestate.edu/socwork/dhuff/history/central/core.htm • Trattner, W. (1999) <i>From Poor Law to Welfare State: A History of Social Welfare Policy in America.</i> Read the chapter most germane to your policy analysis issue.
<p>Sept. 25 Class 4</p>	<p>Analyzing Social Welfare Policy: A review of four frameworks will be discussed (Karger & Stoez, DiNitto, Chipungu, Johnson, Schwartz & Tate.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: Karger & Stoesz, Chapter 2: Social Welfare Policy Research: A Framework for Policy Analysis, pp. 28-37. • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 1: Politics, Rationalism, and Welfare, pp. 1- 17. • Required: Chipungu, S. (1991). A Value-based policy framework, pp. 290 B 305. In Everett, J.; Chipungu, S., & Leashore, B. (1991). <i>Child welfare: An Africentric perspective.</i> • Required: Johnson, L. C., Schwartz, C.L., & Tate, D.S. (1997). Chapter 15 The contemporary social welfare system. In <i>Social welfare: A response to human need</i>, 4th ed. 315-328. <p>Political advocacy assignments due!</p>
<p>Oct . 2</p>	<p>Ethics and values in the policy process, underlying assumptions of social policy, ideologies</p>

Class 5	<p>and social policy, NASW Code of Ethics. Policy Research using the Internet.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: Jansson, B.S. (1999) <i>Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate</i>, Chapter 2: Ethical, Analytic and Political Rationales for engaging in Policy Advocacy, pp 29 - 56 • NASW Code of Ethics • Required: Karger & Stoez, Chapter 3: Technology and Social Policy pp 40-54. • Ethical thinking: Markalla Center for Applied Ethics http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html <p>In class exercise: ethical decision-making.</p>
Oct. 9 Class 6	<p>Defining poverty: Where to Begin? Who are the poor? Theories of poverty; strategies for combating poverty.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: How does Tennessee Measure Up? The Kids Count Report</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 3, pp. 66-98. • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 10, pp 410 - 433 • Albeda, R. & Tilly, C. (2001). Women, income & poverty: There's a family connection. In Rotherberg, R.S. (2001). <i>Race, Class, & Gender in the United States</i>. New York: Worth Publishing. • Cohen, N. (2000). <i>Child Welfare: A Multicultural Focus</i>, Chapter 1: Child Welfare History in the United States, pp. 15-39. • Required: Kids Count Report: Tennessee Rankings http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/Joint/Committees/children/c&y.htm <p>Policy analysis proposals due!</p>
Oct. 16 Class 7	<p>Preventing Poverty: Social Insurance Programs. Definition and background of social insurance. Key social insurance programs.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Social Security Guest Speaker: Medicare Pharmacy Benefit</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 4, pp 125-154. • Required: Beverly, Sondra, G. (2002). What Social Workers Need to Know about the Earned Income Tax Credit. <i>Journal of the National Association of Social Workers</i>, 47(3), pp. 259-266. • The Future of Social Security http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/fed_prog/futureof-ss/10055.html • Medicare Pharmacy Benefit http://www.medicare.gov/pdphome.asp
Oct. 23 Class 8	<p>Mid-Term Exam</p>
Oct. 24 Class 9	<p>Ending Welfare as We Knew It: Public Assistance Programs. Assumptions underlying public assistance, U.S. farm policies; Rural poverty. Key public assistance programs: AFDC/TANF, welfare reform, Families First SSI Housing</p>

	<p>Guest Speaker: Families First Guest Speaker: Eradicating poverty in America</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 6, pp 204-246. • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 9, pp 349-379. • Wedel, K.R. & Butler, F.C. (1999) Welfare reform and demand for rural public transportation. In LeNay, C., Edwards, R., Reid, N., <i>Preserving and Strengthening Small Towns and Rural Communities</i> Washington D.C.: NASW Press • Lens, V. (2002). TANF: What Went Wrong and What to Do Next. <i>Journal of the National Association of Social Workers</i>, 47(3), pp.279-290. <p>Abramovitz, M. (2001). Everyone is Still on Welfare: The Role of Redistribution in Social Policy. <i>Social Work</i>, 46 (4), 297-308. Washington, DC: NASW.</p>
<p>Nov. 6 Class 10</p>	<p>Treating the Nation's Ills: Improving Healthcare</p> <p>Guest Speaker: National Health Plan</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 7, pp 204-246. • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 8, pp 349-379. • National Health Program http://www.pnhp.org/slideshow/pnhp2003/PNHPNovember2003.ppt <p>Optional in class exercise (time permitting)</p>
<p>Nov. 13 Class 11</p>	<p>Mental Health & Substance Abuse Policy History and reform efforts: managed care, parity for mental health care, the War on Drugs</p> <p>Guest Speaker: The War on Drugs, failed policy</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 5, pp 161-197. • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 10, pp 384-409. • Karger & Stoez, Chapter 13: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy, pp. 358 - 386. • President's New Freedom Commission Report on Mental Health (2003) http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov/reports/reports.htm
<p>Nov. 20 Class 12</p>	<p>Issues of Discrimination, Oppression and Inequality; Historical and current trends in American society: Racism, sexism, sexual orientation, ageism, persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: From Discrimination to Diversity, Changing the paradigm</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 11, pp. 441-500. • Young, W. M. Chapter 3: Building an Open Society. In "Beyond Racism", pp. 151-202. • Karger & Stoez, Chapter 4: Discrimination in American Society pp 55 - 101 • Schiele, J. H. (1997). An Afrocentric Perspective on Social Welfare Philosophy and Policy. <i>Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare</i>, 24(2), pp. 21-39.
<p>Nov. 27</p>	<p>Skills for policy practice: Affecting change.</p>

Class 13	<p>Understanding the policy process, recognizing and using power, strategies of policy persuasion, Implementing and Evaluating policy.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: DiNitto, D. Chapter 12, pp. 407-431. • Jansson, B. (1999) <i>Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate: From policy practice to social justice</i>. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Chapter 1: Why Engage in Policy Practice and Policy Advocacy, pp. 1-28; • Required: Jansson, B, Chapter 9: Policy Persuasion, pp. 231 - 255. • Linhorst, D. M. Federalism and Social Justice: Implications for Social Work. <i>Journal of the National Association of Social Workers</i>, 47(3), pp. 201-208. <p>Final Papers Due!</p> <p>Policy Debates begin.</p>
Dec. 5 Class 14	<p>Policy Debates.</p> <p>Class Evaluation.</p>

Bibliography

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